

U.S. PTO Customer No. 25280

Case #5719

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has improperly imposed this claim restriction after already performing a detailed search of claims 1 – 39 (see Office Actions dated January 12, 2005; July 29, 2005; December 5, 2005; June 13, 2006 shown on the prosecution history list attached hereto as Exhibit 1). These Office Actions contained claim rejections based upon prior art found from the Examiner's search (see Examiner's search list attached hereto as Exhibit 2).

Furthermore, the Office Action dated December 5, 2005 was a Final Office Action. MPEP Section 811.02 and 37 CFR Section 1.142(a) clearly state that a restriction is proper at any stage of prosecution up to final action. Thus, since Applicants received a Final Office Action (dated December 5, 2005) on the merits of the application, Applicants respectfully submit that a restriction requirement at this time is improper. Applicants further note that the claims were not amended at any time after the Final Office Action, thereby eliminating any further basis for the Examiner to impose the restriction requirement at this time. (The claims were last amended in the Response and Amendment dated October 27, 2005, which was prior to the Final Office Action.)

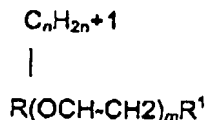
Lastly, Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner does not seem to have responded to Applicants' last Response which was submitted electronically by Applicants on October 12, 2006, and which included a 1.132 Affidavit from the inventor and Exhibits A – C. This Response was sent in reply to the Non-Final Office Action dated June 13, 2006.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this restriction requirement. In the event the Examiner fails to do so, Applicants elect with traverse the following species:

1. the absorbent particulates of part (a) – urea formaldehyde polymer;
2. the surfactants of part (b) – nonionic surfactant having the formula:



where n is 0 or 1, m is 3 to 20, R¹ is OH or OCH₃, R is C₁₂ to C₂₂ alkyl or phenyl or naphthyl optionally substituted by C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl groups;

3. the dispersion stabilizing agents of part (c) – clay compounds.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to file the non-elected species in a divisional application.

Respectfully submitted,

November 20, 2006

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EXHIBIT 1



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10/783,729 Compositions and methods for cleaning textile substrates

| Application Data | Transaction History | Image File Wrapper | Continuity Data | Published Documents | Publication Dates | Address & Attorney/Agent |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|

Transaction History

| Date | Transaction Description |
|--------------|---|
| 10-23-2006 | Mail Restriction Requirement |
| 10-19-2006 | Requirement for Restriction / Election |
| 10-12-2006 | Affidavit(s) (Rule 131 or 132) or Exhibit(s) Received |
| 10-17-2006 | Date Forwarded to Examiner |
| 10-12-2006 | Response after Non-Final Action |
| 10-12-2006 | Request for Extension of Time - Granted |
| 06-13-2006 | Mail Non-Final Rejection |
| * 06-12-2006 | Non-Final Rejection |
| 09-12-2005 | Information Disclosure Statement considered |
| 06-02-2006 | Workflow - Request for RCE - Begin |
| 06-06-2006 | Date Forwarded to Examiner |
| 06-06-2006 | Date Forwarded to Examiner |
| 06-02-2006 | Request for Continued Examination (RCE) |
| 06-06-2006 | DISPOSAL FOR A RCE/CPA/129 (express abandonment if CPA) |
| 06-02-2006 | Request for Extension of Time - Granted |
| 12-05-2005 | Mail Final Rejection (PTOL - 326) |
| * 11-30-2005 | Final Rejection |
| 11-08-2005 | Date Forwarded to Examiner |
| 10-27-2005 | Response after Non-Final Action |
| 09-12-2005 | Reference capture on IDS |
| 09-12-2005 | Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed |
| 07-29-2005 | Mail Non-Final Rejection |
| * 07-28-2005 | Non-Final Rejection |
| 07-26-2005 | Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU |
| 05-11-2005 | Date Forwarded to Examiner |

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|--------------|---|
| 04-12-2005 | Response after Non-Final Action |
| 01-12-2005 | Mail Non-Final Rejection |
| * 01-10-2005 | Non-Final Rejection |
| 11-22-2004 | IFW TSS Processing by Tech Center Complete |
| 07-29-2004 | Reference capture on IDS |
| 07-29-2004 | Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) Filed |
| 11-22-2004 | Case Docketed to Examiner in GAU |
| 10-18-2004 | Transfer Inquiry to GAU |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Return from OIPE |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Is Now Complete |
| 09-10-2004 | Pre-Exam Office Action Withdrawn |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Return TO OIPE |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Return from OIPE |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Return TO OIPE |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Return from OIPE |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Is Now Complete |
| 09-10-2004 | Pre-Exam Office Action Withdrawn |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Return TO OIPE |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Dispatched from OIPE |
| 09-10-2004 | Application Is Now Complete |
| 05-07-2004 | A statement by one or more inventors satisfying the requirement |
| 05-07-2004 | Additional Application Filing Fees |
| 05-14-2004 | Notice Mailed--Application Incomplete--Filing Date Assigned |
| 03-24-2004 | Cleared by OIPE CSR |
| 03-07-2004 | IFW Scan & PACR Auto Security Review |
| 02-20-2004 | Initial Exam Team nn |

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